AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Currently Amended)** A chimeric polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of a native OB protein, with or without the initiating N-terminal methionine and with or without the native signal sequence, fused to an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant domain sequence, ~~of claim 13~~ wherein said immunoglobulin constant domain sequence ~~comprised~~ comprises the hinge, CH2 and CH3 regions of an IgG.

15. **(Cancelled)**

16. **(Currently Amended)** The chimeric polypeptide of claim **[15]**14 wherein two OB polypeptide IgG heavy chain fusions are linked to each other by at least one disulfide bond to yield a homodimeric immunoglobulin-like structure.

17. **(Original)** The chimeric polypeptide of claim 16 wherein at least one of said OB polypeptide-IgG heavy chain fusions is associated with an immunoglobulin light chain.

18. **(Previously Presented)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a chimeric polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of a native OB protein, with or without the initiating N-terminal methionine and with or without the native signal sequence, fused to an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant domain sequence.

19. **(Original)** A replicable expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 18.

20. **(Original)** A host cell transformed with the replicable expression vector of claim 19.

21. **(Previously Presented)** A process comprising culturing the host cells of claim 20 so as to express the nucleic acid encoding said chimeric polypeptide and recovering said chimeric polypeptide.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 21 wherein said host cells are cotransformed with nucleic acid encoding at least two OB protein-immunoglobulin heavy chain constant domain fusions.

23. **(Original)** The process of claim 22 wherein said cells are further transformed with nucleic acid encoding at least one immunoglobulin light chain.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A method of treating a condition associated with the abnormal expression or function of the OB gene or for eliciting a biological response mediated

by an OB receptor comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of the chimeric polypeptide, wherein said chimeric polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of a native OB protein, with or without the initiating N-terminal methionine and with or without the native signal sequence, fused to an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant domain sequence, ~~of claim 13~~.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The method **[fo]** of claim 24 wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of obesity, bulemia and type I or II diabetes.

26. **(Original)** A composition for the treatment of obesity comprising an effective amount of a chimeric polypeptide of claim 13 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. **(Cancelled)**

28. **(Previously Presented)** The nucleic acid of claim 18 encoding a chimeric polypeptide comprising a mature native human OB polypeptide fused, at its C-terminus, to the N-terminus of an IgG constant domain sequence comprising the hinge, CH2 and CH3 regions.

29. **(New)** The method of Claim 24, wherein the biological response mediated by an OB receptor is a decrease in food intake.

30. **(New)** The method of Claim 24, wherein the biological response mediated by an OB receptor is an increase in energy use.